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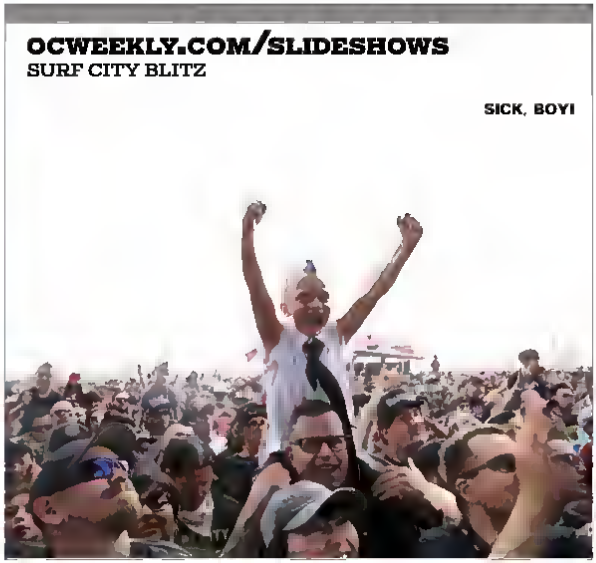

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EDITORIAL
EDITOR Nick Schou
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Patrice Manners
SENIOR EDITOR, NEWS & INVESTIGATIONS R. Scott Moxley
STAFF WRITERS Matt Coker, Gabriel San Román
MUSIC EDITOR Nate Jackson
FOOD EDITOR Cynthia Rebolledo
CALENDAR EDITOR Aimee Murillo
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT/ PROOFREADER Lisa Black
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Dave Barton, Joel Beers-Sarah Bennett Lilledashan Boss, Josh Chesler Heidi Darby Stacy Davies Alex Distefano Erin DeWitt, Jeanette Duran, Edwin Goei, Taylor Hamby Candace Hansan, Daniel Kohn, Dave Lieberman, Adam Lovinus, Todd Mathews, Greg Nagel, Katrina Nattress, Nick Nuk em, Anne Marie Panaringan, CJ Simonsen, Andrew Tonkovich, Brittany Woolsey&Chris Ziegler
EDITORIAL INTERNS Liam Rhine, Savannah Muñoz, Spencer Otte

EDITORIAL ART
CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS AlGae, Leslie Agan, Bob Aul, Jared Boggess Mark Danney Rob Dobi, Jeff Drew Scott Feinblatt, Greg Houston, Cameron K Lewis, Bill Mayer, Luke McGarry Kevin McVeigh, Thomas Pitilli, Joe Rocco, Julio Salgado
PHOTOGRAPHERS Wednesday Aja, Ed Carrasco, Brian Ernen, Scott Feinblatt, Brian Feinzimer John Gilhooley Eric Hood, Nick Iverson, Allix Johnson, Matt Kollar Isaac Larios, Danny Liaa, Fabian Ortiz, Josué Rivas, Eran Ryan, Sugarwolf, Matt Ufelder Miguel Vasconcellos, Christopher Victorio, William Vo, Kevin Wacn, Micah Wright

PRODUCTION
ART DIRECTOR Richie Beckman
PRODUCTION MANAGER Casey Long
LAYOUT DESIGNER/PRODUCTION ARTIST Mercedes Del Real

SALES
PUBLISHER Cynthia Rebolledo
SALES DIRECTOR Ryan Whipple
SALES MANAGER Jason Hamelberg
SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Danny Hudgins Katie Lynch
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Daniel Voet, Jason Winder

MARKETING
DIGITAL COORDINATOR Dennis Estrada

ADMINISTRATION
PRESIDENT & CEO Duncan McIntosh
VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER Jeff Fleming
AR COORDINATOR Herlinda Ortiz

OC Weekly is located at 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708. (714) 550-5000 Display Advertising, (714) 550-5009; Classified Advertising, (714) 550-5000; National Advertising, (888) 278-9686, vmcentralgroup.com; Fax, (714) 550-5006; Advertising Fax, (714) 550-5009, Classified Fax, (714) 550-5006; Circulation, (888) 732 7322; Website, www.ocweekly.com. The publication is free, one per reader. Removal of more than one paper from any distribution point constitutes theft, and violators are subject to prosecution. Please address all correspondence to OC Weekly 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708; email: letters@ocweekly.com. Published weekly (Thursday), OC Weekly is wholly owned and operated by OC Weekly News, Inc., a California corporation. Subscription price: $65 for six months; $90 per year POSTMASTER: Send address changes to OC Weekly at P. O. Box 28995, Santa Ana, CA 92799. Submissions of all kinds are welcome. Address them to the editor and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
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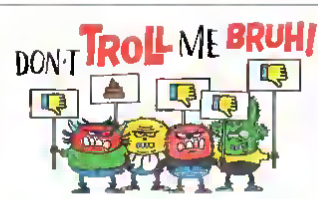
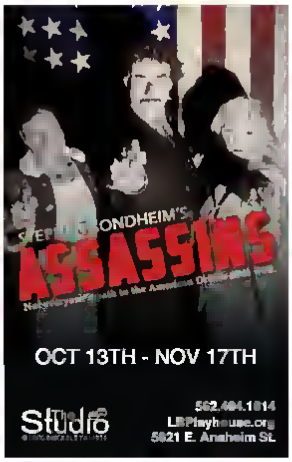


"Of course blasphemy from *OC Weekly*. You guys are pure trash, no class."
—*River Anthonison, reacting to Bob Aul's cover illustration for our Scariest People issue*
Our response: Holy Jim Canyon to you, too, pal!



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Man With a Plan

Who is District Attorney Tony Rackauckas really shagging?

This month—16 years after three high-school boys filmed themselves raping an unconscious 16-year-old girl in a multimillionaire's oceanview Newport Beach home—television personality Dr. Oz helped return Orange County to the center of a national scandal involving drugs, sex, video recordings and questions of consent.

"Today, another alleged Dr. Evil is being exposed, and this time it's a reality-TV surgeon previously labeled 'Bachelor of the Year,'" Oz said of Grant Robicheaux, a 38-year-old Newport Beach doctor who faces felony charges alongside his co-defendant, Cerissa Riley. "It is believed he used his looks, wealth and even his girlfriend to drug and sexually assault at least 12 female victims—a number, police say, that will just keep growing."

moxley CONFIDENTIAL

» R. SCOTT MOXLEY

With a backdrop of ominous music featuring sirens and prison-cell doors slamming shut, Oz added that investigators "found thousands of photos and videos on Dr. Robicheaux's phone [in which] he is engaged in sex acts with the alleged victims." He then called the couple a "Bonnie and Clyde-esque" pair.

More on the alleged "thousands" of sex-crime images and videos later. First, keep in mind Bonnie and Clyde murdered at least 13 people in the early 1900s. Robicheaux and Riley haven't been convicted of anything. There hasn't even been a preliminary hearing in which the government is tested on the validity of its case.

That reality didn't give pause to Oz guest Nancy Grace, the cable-TV commentator. "I'm so mad I could chew a nail in half," Grace said, before declaring there are "over a thousand" victims.

The first reported allegation against the couple happened in 2016. Do the math. To drug and rape a thousand women, the defendants would have had to accumulate an exhausting 96 victims per week for two years.

Who would push such nonsense to the public and why?

Scandal-scarred District Attorney Tony Rackauckas is seeking a sixth, four-year term in the Nov. 6 election, and he's facing his most intimidating challenger, Supervisor Todd Spitzer, a former prosecutor and state assemblyman. The 75-year-old Rackauckas breezed by prior opponents but saw the more articulate Spitzer, 58, come within 3 percentage points at the June primary, in which 61 percent of voters wanted someone other than the incumbent.

DA EVIL

RICHIE BECKMAN

With Spitzer airing TV ads slamming Rackauckas' fitness for office, the DA decided in mid-September to take the national-media stage. He announced the pursuit of the "well-known Newport Beach surgeon and reality-TV star" based on the claims of Jane Doe No. 1 and Jane Doe No. 2. But the timeline, as well as case facts raise questions about why the matter suddenly landed on the fast track.

Doe No. 1 complained to the Newport Beach Police Department 882 days before the Robicheaux/Riley arrests, investigators closed that case 544 days before the arrests, noting lack of evidence. In April 2016, she argued with her boyfriend, then joined the couple. Doe No. 1 willingly consumed beer, champagne and illegal narcotics before having sex with them, according to police. Two days later, after her boyfriend learned of the affair, she claimed she may have been raped after falling unconscious.

Doe No. 2's police complaint occurred 709 days before the arrest. In October 2016, after a night of partying, she awoke in Robicheaux's home screaming so loudly that neighbors called 911. Doe No. 2 initially told arriving police she didn't think anyone tried to rape her, but that people had been punching her in the face and kicking her in the head. She showed signs of heavy intoxication but no injuries.

After summoning the media to his office on Sept. 18—just 49 days before the election, Rackauckas teased the public's imagination. When asked to tally the number of victims on the videos, he said, "Many." Pressed, he changed it to "hundreds." Pressed again, he said more than 1,000.

In early 2018, the British press labeled a defendant with 40 victims as the "worst" sex-crimes offender in that nation's history. If Rackauckas is telling the truth, Robicheaux and Riley—who, by the way, passed polygraph tests—could be the biggest offenders in modern Earth history. Yet, law enforcement possessed the images for more than 5,880 hours before taking them into custody.

Suspicions abound. Twenty-nine days after the DA said he'd seen images proving there were more than 1,000 victims, deputy DA Jennifer Walker claimed she'd found only five more potential victims after the first two women and flatly contradicted her boss in open court. Walker told Judge Gregory Jones that the "electronic items that was [sic] seized in January has [sic] not been viewed by the People." Walker and Rackauckas can't both be telling the truth.

There's a cynical explanation. Having thoroughly destroyed the defendants' reputations before a trial, the DA's goal is now to prevent the defense from exposing his hyperbole before the election against Spitzer. Walker fueled the drama by reneging on pledges to surrender the evidence twice this month. She also tried to increase bail to $3 million each, arguing the couple pose a "severe danger to society." In rejecting the move, the judge wondered aloud why they hadn't been arrested "much earlier," if they truly are "a very real risk."

It's easy to understand interest in the case. Robicheaux and Riley freely admit they love to party, just as many well-to-do young adults in Southern California. They've partied with people who love to party, too, police learned. Nobody who is unconscious should ever be victimized, and perhaps the charges aren't baseless. But perhaps these defendants are the useful puppets of a warped politician hoping to keep his job.

RSCOTTMOXLEY@OCWEEKLY.COM

POLITICAL FOOTBALL
» STEVE LOWERY

Atlanta Falcons vs. Washington Not-Going-There-Thank-Yous

ATLANTA UPDATE: Usually rock-solid Republican Georgia has what appears to be a very close race for governor between the GOP's Brian Kemp and Democrat Stacey Abrams, the first African-American woman to hold that designation. Many people believe Abrams has a real chance of winning if given a fair shot. Of course, Georgia's Secretary of State cast doubt on that possibility when his office expunged tens of thousands of voters, most of them black, from the voting rolls. The Secretary of State is Brian Kemp ... *hmmmm* ... what a coincidence. The Secretary of State and GOP candidate for governor have the same na—*oooooh*. Despite many calls for him to resign his post, Kemp is running for governor while also managing the election he's running in. This is called "playing both ends." It's also called "fucked." He claims the only people who have a problem with that are "outside agitators," which is a blast from the Jim Crow past, a term intimating that African-Americans aren't motivated or capable enough to stand up for themselves. It's a belittling phrase meant to demean, akin to saying someone is "very articulate" or "Kanye West."

WASHINGTON UPDATE: Melania Trump splits her time between New York, Washington, D.C., and that special place deep inside where all her life choices congregate and ask, "What the fuck were you thinking?" Last week in Washington, as she hosted a group of grade schoolers to talk about bullying, she encouraged "everyone to be kind to each other and treat each other with respect in everyday life and on social media." Which probably confused the sharper kids who were aware that her husband had that day referred to Stormy Daniels as "horseface." The First Lady claims to be the "most bullied person in the world." This from the woman who has stood by her husband as he railed against "Crooked Hillary" to a rabid mob of puds who respond with chants of "Lock her up!" This from the woman who said nothing when her pud of a husband—her "pudsband" (trademark pending)—called immigrants "rapists" or when he threatened the lives of journalists by calling them "enemies of the people." Each time, as well as so many more, she has done nothing except flash that bizarre "Blue Steel" look that makes it appear as if she's attempting to mask flatulence.

ROOT FOR: Atlanta. Though, if Brian Kemp is working the scoreboard, victory is pretty much assured.

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

The Mouth That Rohrabachered

» MATT COKER

If 48th Congressional District voters on Tuesday return Representative Dana Rohrabacher (R-Putin's Lip Locker) to Congress for his 31st and 32nd years, they will get to hear him say more stuff like the following, all of which he has uttered over the years.

BOB AUL

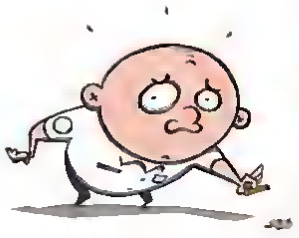
"Global warming is a hoax." • "We have become a magnet for all the pregnant women of the world." • Senator Ted Kennedy "is a man who drowned a young lady in his car, who was reported to have fornicated on the floors of Washington restaurants." • President Bill Clinton's "sex in the White House" caused the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. • "George W. Bush becoming president is just further proof of the existence of God. There is no other explanation." • "You don't have to say [Anita Hill]'s a liar to say Clarence Thomas is telling the truth. People have different memories of the same event." • "Look, the Democratic party is controlled by environmental extremists. They are controlled by feminist extremists." • "[I] would suggest not changing the definition of marriage in our society to make a small number of people feel more comfortable." • Allegations of Russia meddling in U.S. elections are "a total fabrication in order to do one thing: to prevent Donald Trump from exercising the legitimate authority he was given by the voters in the last election." • White nationalist riots in Charlottesville, Virginia, were staged by "left wingers who were manipulating them in order to have this confrontation." • On Sacha Baron Cohen's fake Kinder-Guardians gun training for young children: "Maybe having young people learn how to train and defend their schools might actually make us safer here." • "I know I had dinner with [accused Russian spy Maria "Mana" Butina] along with another member [of Congress], along with a visiting delegation to Russia. Is that something we should be worried about?" • "Every homeowner should be able to make a decision not to sell their home to someone [if] they don't agree with their lifestyle." • "Well, let me just note ... uh ... this is coming into the year of the dog. Now ... there are people in the United States that don't like that Chinese people eat dog. And I want them, Chinese people, to know that we eat bunnies over here, and we eat all kinds of little animals. I don't blame them for eating dog. If that's what tastes good, that's what tastes good." • "This guy [Brett Kavanaugh] who's going to be our Supreme Court justice, and he better be our Supreme Court judge, he's a perfect candidate, and what do they say? 'Well, in high school, you did this.' High school? Give me a break!"

MCOKER@OCWEEKLY.COM

HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

Litterbugged



BOB AUL

You're the security guard at a private school down the street from my house. You ducked across the street from the school on a break to enjoy a cigarette. As you were walking back, you didn't notice me walking my dogs behind you as you took a last drag, pitched the cigarette butt onto the sidewalk below you, stepped on it and carried on. My blood boiled. This is Newport Beach, and chances are pretty good this cigarette butt would wash down a storm drain and wind up in our beautiful ocean. I hollered at you, expecting an argument or a denial, but then ... you stopped, turned and fessed up. You immediately told me you were in the wrong and apologized, then went back and picked the cigarette up. I thanked you and let you know I appreciated it, as litter such as this often winds up in our ocean or on our beaches. You apologized once more, adding you wouldn't do it again. And somehow, I believe you. I'm not giving you a pass for littering, but thank you for immediately righting your wrong, even though you had to be schooled to do it. I walked away thinking maybe there's one less asshole in this world.

HEY, YOU! Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey, You!" c/o *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, or email us at letters@ocweekly.com.

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Will Katie Porter UNSEAT ★ Mimi Walters ★ IN THE 45TH CONGRESSIONAL Race?

Attending a Democratic candidate's town-hall meeting in the Age of Trump can be a disorienting experience because our shared political rhetoric has become largely meaningless.

"Our rigged political system has reached a crisis point," Katie Porter, a UC Irvine law professor challenging incumbent Republican Mimi Walters in the 45th Congressional district, said at a Sept. 19 University Hills town-hall meeting. According to Porter, our "culture of corruption" in Washington, D.C., is the "single most important issue we have to tackle in Congress." She then promised the 100 or so people in attendance that "fixing our broken political system" would help to solve a wide variety of societal problems, including unaffordable health care and gun violence.

These phrases, repeated throughout virtually every congressional election this year, sound eerily like 2016 presidential candidate Donald Trump's notorious promise to "drain the swamp" in Washington. Trump also said our political system was broken and repeated the word *rigged* so often that it's hard for even liberals these days to have faith in our elections.

Of course, Democrats such as Porter still have faith in the system (though Porter says Congress must enact campaign-finance reform because it's "a really central part of how you get young voters to believe" they should vote). Trump and his followers may see the entire democratic process as illegitimate, but for Democratic challengers, talking to voters is the only chance they have. "We don't have to outrace the Koch brothers," Porter said. "We don't need our own [Republican investor] Sheldon Adelson—I don't want my own Sheldon Adelson. We just need enough money to reach every potential voter."

The fight over the 45th District—which includes Tustin, Orange, Irvine, Mission Viejo, Lake Forest, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel and parts of Aliso Viejo—has attracted national attention like no other in its history. The day before the Sept. 19 meeting, the political-news website *Axios* called the district one of eight races to watch this election. When *The New York Times* polled voters there in late September, Porter emerged with a narrow but definite five-point lead.

This should be unthinkable, as the 45th has long been a Republican stronghold. Political analyst Charlie Cook lists the district's Partisan Voting Index (PVI) as an anemic R+3 (by comparison, Democratic Representative Lou Correa's 46th District is listed as D+15). What's more, in 2016, presidential candidate Hillary Clinton actually beat Trump in the 45th by 5.4 percentage points.

This is why I wasn't so surprised to see a glossy mailer sent out by the National Association of REALTORS Congressional Fund calling on voters to elect Porter because she will "Fight to Allow Borrowers to Refinance Their Student Loans." The mailer is part of a huge $410,000 independent expenditure by the Super-PAC on behalf of Porter. This SuperPAC not only hasn't spent any money on behalf of Walters, but it's also currently spending twice as much money on Republican candidates than Democrats, according to the most recent data posted by the Center for Responsive Politics.

So who is Katie Porter, besides being the law professor best known as a former student of Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren? "I'm a mom of three very lightly supervised school-age children," Porter joked at her University Hills town hall. It's a joke I've heard her say elsewhere. Porter seems best when talking about her own experiences. A couple of weeks later, at a UC Irvine town hall, Porter talked at length about her family's health care to a few dozen medical students.

Though she has very good insurance through UCI, her family incurred $11,000 in medical costs last year after her son got sick, she recalled. That was a good connection; not so good was when she turned a question from the audience about discrimination against Latinos who try to get health care around to her own experience spending 10 hours in a hospital with an inflamed appendix, saying her organ burst while waiting to see a surgeon because she was a single parent who had no one with her to flag down a doctor or nurse after she was administered pain meds.

At the University Hills town hall, the loudest applause came after Porter spoke about the need to make sure "our public schools are safe from [Education Secretary] Betsy DeVos and her dangerous ideas," immigration ("I strongly oppose family separation"), and opening up Medicare for all. "Mimi Walters said I support universal health care," Porter said at the town hall. "You're darn right I do!"

Walters—who, like many of her fellow Republican members of Congress, doesn't do town halls—has been a stalwart in the Orange County Republican Party since the mid-1990s. An investment banker by trade, Walters won a seat on the Laguna Niguel City Council in 1996. She then moved on to the state Assembly and Senate before getting elected to represent the 45th Congressional District in 2014.

In Walters' first U.S. congressional election, she demolished Democrat Drew Leavens by more than 30 percentage points. Two years later, Democrat Ron Varasteh did better but still lost by 17 points.

For the most part, Walters is as Republican as they come: anti-abortion, pro-gun, anti-legalized marijuana. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Walters' biggest donors are real-estate interests ($221,000), securities and investments ($209,000), and Big Pharma ($175,000). She voted for Trump's tax cuts for the wealthy (natch) and repealing the Affordable Care Act (double natch).

Incredibly, Walters apparently accepts the reality of climate change, but she didn't fully articulate that until after Trump announced that the U.S. would pull out of the Paris Accords. Of course, Walters' actual voting record is abysmal on the environment, earning her a lifetime score of just 4 percent from the League of Conservation Voters.

Not long ago, Walters' stance on the environment was all but irrelevant to South County voters. That voters are talking about it now is actually a reason to be hopeful. Because regardless of who wins in November, the status quo on climate change, health-care access and gun violence will crush us all if left untouched.

—ANTHONY PIGNATARO

★★★★★★★★★★

The Return of Commie/Capitalist Tom Umberg and the Fight for the 34th Senate District

★★★★★★★★★★

Down-ballot races are notoriously dull, but voters in the 34th Senate District saw some real comedy this election. That's because Republican incumbent state Senator Janet Nguyen's campaign sent out a mailer (in Vietnamese) labeling Democratic challenger Tom Umberg a "pro-communist," "communist sympathizer," and friend of actress Jane Fonda and her former husband, the late leftist state Senator Tom Hayden.

This wasn't surprising, given Nguyen's extreme dislike of Hayden. In fact, in February 2017, Democrats had Nguyen removed from the Senate floor after she went on a tirade bashing Hayden, who had died a few months prior, and refused to stop speaking after being ruled *out* of order. Jess Araujo, Umberg's Santa Ana-based attorney, took extreme umbrage to the mailer, then sent a blistering response to Nguyen on Oct. 1 demanding an immediate retraction, but all that accomplished was alerting the press to the mailer's existence.

Forgive yourselves if Umberg's name sounds familiar, but you can't quite place him. He's a local Democratic Party retread, out of office for more than a decade but back to unseat his former rival.

While Umberg is many things—corporate attorney, former drug warrior, retired military prosecutor—he's not a communist. In fact, he's so anti-communist that he's been labeled Republican-lite pretty much since he first got into politics. "I have to convince Tom Umberg that he's in the wrong party," the late Republican Assemblymember Gil Ferguson said in 1991. "He even looks like a Republican." (Ferguson was so conservative that he once introduced a resolution denying that "Japanese-Americans were interned in concentration camps during World War II.")

Ferguson's reasoning lay in large part to Umberg's friendly attitude toward Corporate America. In fact, in his first Assembly term, Umberg voted with Republicans against Senate Bill 144, which would have barred public financing of toll roads.

Umberg somehow manages to simultaneously occupy the space of both longtime politico and inexperienced outsider. First elected to the state Assembly in 1990, Umberg who re-election in 1992, then lost the race for state Attorney General in 1994. Banished to the political wilderness, he ran for state Insurance Commissioner in 2002, but lost. Two years later, he returned to the state Assembly, only to lose a state Senate race in 2006. He then reached for the 1st District Supervisor's seat a year later, but he lost it—to Nguyen.

Umberg calls himself a "U.S. Army Colonel (Retired) and former federal prosecutor and state Assemblyman." He last won election in 2006 for the state Assembly, which is also the only elected job he's ever held. From 2008 to 2014, he held an appointed seat on the California High Speed Rail Authority, though that project's missed deadlines and massive cost overruns hardly make it a bragging right. For the past 12 years, Umberg has been a partner at Umberg/Zipser, where he's handled cases involving "health care, real estate, workplace harassment, construction defects, employee pension plans, etc.," according to the Irvine law firm's website.

Does any of this sound like the work of a devoted acolyte of Ho Chi Minh and Che Guevara?

How about the fact that in 1997, President Bill Clinton appointed him Deputy Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). It was the No. 2 drug-warrior spot in the federal government, and Umberg held it until six months before Clinton left office. The reason? So he could lobby for big corporations looking to do business in Latin America.

"When the *Weekly* first interviewed Umberg a few weeks after he left the White House, he said his upcoming client work involved 'helping to build a hydroelectric facility in Peru, working on a telecommunications project in Mexico,' and 'assisting in privatization in other places in South America,'" we reported back in 2000.

We also shouldn't forget the two years Umberg spent in Afghanistan (2009-2010), "lead[ing] the U.S. Military effort to attack corruption within the Afghan Army and police," according to his campaign materials. Umberg even won a Bronze Star for that.

Never mind Umberg being a communist—are we sure he never took Ferguson's advice and joined the GOP?

Actually, we're pretty sure he's a Democrat. During his last term as state Assemblymember, Umberg voted in support of gay marriage. Planned Parenthood has endorsed him. Much of Umberg's campaign money comes from attorneys and unions. In fact, former Irvine Mayor Larry Agran contributed $1,000 to Umberg's campaign (and *Orange County Business Journal* editor Peter Weitzner contributed $250).

Umberg's campaign bio mentions his work as a military prosecutor, and while he did spend time in Guantanamo in 2004, his years working for Clinton meant he wasn't exactly Mr. Popularity. In fact, according to Jess Bravin's 2013 book *The Terror Courts: Rough Justice at Guantanamo Bay*, which chronicled the formation of the military courts set up at the U.S. Naval base in Cuba to try alleged terrorists, Umberg had some powerful enemies.

According to Bravin's book, chief prosecutor Bob Swann apparently loathed Umberg, even going so far as to reject the possibility of Umberg, a "media-savvy corporate lawyer," becoming the prosecution spokesperson "with his trademark wave."

"You're a politician, and you're worried about the press," Swann "sneered" at Umberg, according to Bravin. "[Besides], if we had known you were a Clinton guy, we never would have asked you to come back here." In fact, Bravin wrote that Swann "treated Umberg as if he were a spy for the current Democratic presidential nominee, Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts."

Not quite a million people live in the 34th District, which includes portions of North and Central OC. Though nearly half the population is Latino, the Democratic and Republican candidates in the race are white and Asian, respectively. Umberg should have the edge, given that the district leans Democratic (40 percent, with 31 percent identifying as Republican), but Republican Nguyen won easily in 2015 with more than 58 percent of the vote. Given that the very conservative Little Saigon is in the 34th and a lot of the people there vote, it's easy to understand why Nguyen would want to label Umberg a hated commie.

—ANTHONY PIGNATARO

DIANE HARKEY ★VS★ MIKE LEVIN in California's Fighting 49th District

Straddling South Orange and North San Diego counties, the 49th Congressional District is another race with Blue Wave potential.

Democrat Mike Levin has been campaigning daily since declaring himself a candidate not long after Darrell Issa was re-elected by a tiny margin in 2016. The San Juan Capistrano resident and environmental attorney has raised a war chest with more than 150,000 donors, taking no PAC money.

Republican Diane Harkey's platform boils down to this: I've been elected before—a bunch of times! The not-so-savory subtext is she's been elected despite the Harkey family business being convicted of fraud and elder abuse and ordered to pay $12.5 million to bilked investors, a ruling upheld by an appellate court in July. Mostly seniors, the victims of this Ponzi scheme haven't been compensated and are left wondering how Harkey has paid for her campaigns, mansion and fancy-ass car.

If you or anyone you know has a pre-existing medical condition, has been paying into Social Security and Medicare their whole lives, and doesn't want those funds stolen to pay for further tax cuts for corporations and the 1 percent, vote for Levin. If not, then Harkey's your gal, as her state Assembly votes prove. Proud of her A grade from the NRA, she's running to repeal a state gas tax that has absolutely nothing to do with serving in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Her cluelessness extends to the environment. She claims she'll get 45* to give California a waiver from offshore drilling just as he did for Florida. Because she attributes climate change to "volcanos" and such, she's in favor of fracking, which, if you believe science over the oil and gas industry, is an earthquake inducer. Levin envisions clean-energy policies contributing to economic growth, as well as saving the world for future generations.

The two candidates faced off in an ABC7 San Diego debate on Oct. 2. Given 20 seconds to answer "What is the biggest military threat the United States faces at the moment?" Harkey said, "Ummm probably, military threat. . . . I would say, you've got, you know, I mean, there's a lot of cold wars right now—so, I would say maybe . . . maybe . . . ub . . . the . . . ub maybe the . . . ub maybe—pardon me, I'm just trying to think, there's so many little threats around the world. . . . I'm thinking maybe it's the, uh, you know, Iran is a problem? I think. Yeah, Iran."

Levin, having the advantage of those spasmodic 26 seconds, followed up with "I'm deeply concerned about North Korea. This president went from, uh, asking for fire and fury [to] now saying that we have a love affair with Kim Jong-un. We need consistency and clear headedness, not this volatile foreign policy."

Which answer makes you feel more secure?

—LISA BLACK

Who Will be the Next Mayor of AnaCrime?

One way or another, the next mayor of Anaheim will make history by not being a *gabacho* for the first time. (Max Strobel, turn in your grave!) Among the four frontrunners, Republican Harry Sidhu is Indian-American. Democrat Lorri Galloway is Filipina. Republican Cynthia Ward is a white woman, as is Democrat Ashleigh Aitken.

Now that identity politics are all squared away, who'll take over the "City of Kindness"? Tom Tait, Anaheim's outgoing mayor, surprised many, including the *Weekly*, by turning against onetime pal

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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★★★★★★★★★★

and mayoral predecessor Curt Pringle with stern opposition to corporate subsidies. He even managed to finagle a council majority for his last two years in office. But will his legacy hold?

Traumatized by Tait's turnaround, the city's Resort Elite found a perfect tool in soulless Sidhu. Toward the end of his second term on the City Council in 2012, Sidhu showed no concern for any underlying causes of the Anaheim Riots that summer while others navel-gazed. After leaving the dais, he proved to be a loser thanks to his failed bids to become a supervisor or assemblyman. But now Sidhu's back, promising to keep the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim while scaring voters with tales of homeless folks and hypodermic needles.

Ward enjoys Tait's support and touts a long record of civic engagement from the other side of the dais. She stood alone pleading with the council in vain to not approve more liquor licenses without sounding racist during Anaheim's Gigante Mexican supermarket mess in 2002. Like Tait, Ward ditched the Resort Elite and vocally opposed taxpayer giveaways to corporations. She's the only candidate not from Anaheim Hills, but she is also going to feel that three-way split of the women's vote.

Besides Sidhu, Galloway is the other hopeful to get Mouse money from Disney. She served two terms alongside him on the City Council, but she criticized subsidies. Galloway vied for mayor in 2014, finishing a distant second. Even with small Disney donations causing suspicion among observers, she's running a better campaign this time around and working the terrain to gain visibility for her already-recognizable name. Putting a sign up at the always packed Taqueria Los Güeros #1 in Anaheim? Smart move.

But the endorsed Democrat in the race is Aitken. Her power-broker pops, Wylie, brought to SanTanaheim the likes of Miguel Pulido and Loretta Sanchez, but he also sued the pants off Mickey Mouse. Despite being absent from the Anaheim Riots, KKK melees and subsidy fights, Ashleigh's making up for it by championing the city's living-wage measure. After 16 years of Republican stewardship, the Democrats are hot for the mayor's seat in OC's biggest city, and the younger Aitken is their ticket.

And that's the irony of it all.

For all the sermons on district elections and Latino representation away from the Hills that progressive Dems delivered in the past, the primary focus this year is on Ashleigh Aitken and the only at-large seat left on the City Council. Next time, Anaheim!

—GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Don Papi's Banana ★REPUBLIC★

He has occupied a seat on the SanTana City Council since before *Born in East L.A.* came out—more than 30 years ago!—serving as mayor in 1994. But if City Councilman Sal Tinajero can't beat him Nov. 6, Miguel "*Don Papi*" Pulido will be termed out in 2020, thanks to 2012's Measure GG, which imposes an eight-year limit on the seat.

This election is an important one. SanTana faces a budget crisis, one that has voters deciding on a sales-tax initiative that will hurt working-class residents if passed. And the effects of the Santa Ana Police Officers Association (POA)-backed council members have already been made clear the past few years: raises for cops despite strained budgets, while squashing any police-oversight board, even after multimillion-dollar settlements in police-brutality civil cases.

The POA has certainly emerged as the big-money player in town. In 2016, the police union shelled out about $400,000, with three of its four endorsed candidates—Pulido, Jose Solorio, Juan Villegas—winning election. Even though the trio didn't form a majority these past two years, they sure governed as if they did. And with a bigger war chest this year, the police union is backing Phil Bacerra, David Penaloza, Mirna Velasquez and Pulido with hopes for a super-majority.

Bacerra has recently found himself embroiled in controversy. Griselda Govea, an ex-girlfriend, publicly accused the candidate of having been physically abusive during their past relationship. The Democratic Party of Orange County voted to suspend his endorsement. But the POA? All shrugs. Bacerra faces a sole opponent in Ward 4, former City Councilman Roman Reyna.

Rancho Santiago Community College District board president Nelida Mendoza is the only candidate standing between Velasquez and right-wing evangelical Santa Ana Unified School District trustee Ceci Iglesias (a.k.a. Latina Trump!) in District 6.

Ward 2 is the most competitive. In addition to Penaloza, the ballot lists arts commissioner Sandra "Pocha" Peña Sarmiento, the *prima* of City Councilman Vicente Sarmiento, and investment manager Paul Gonzales.

Gonzales is the most likeable progressive in all the races. He wants to strengthen the Housing Opportunity Ordinance and introduce a law for just-

cause evictions, both sorely needed in the wake of a rent-control initiative failing to get on the ballot. Bonus: He'd be the first openly gay City Council member elected in a city that's home to OC Pride.

—GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Tired of getting nickel-and-dimed by the Mouse, 11 local unions calling themselves the Coalition of Resort Labor Unions commissioned a study on Disneyland Resort cast members working in poverty that came out in February and served as a jumping-off point for a living-wage ballot campaign.

The proposed ordinance holds that any resort-area corporation with tax-rebate agreements with the city of Anaheim is subject to higher minimum wages. And since prior city councils made tax breaks rain on hotels and Disneyland like a stripper in industrial Anaheim, it sent the Mouse's quislings into a panic. Bakers, janitors, housekeepers and other magic makers stood to make $15 per hour under the proposed wage scale, with $1-per-year raises until 2022.

Why even Uncle Bernie Sanders came to town and tough talked the Mouse. Opposition polling obtained by the *Weekly* showed Measure L with an easy path to victory at the height of its popularity.

But then, the living-wage campaign took more unexpected turns than Space Mountain. Disney settled two big contracts with decent pay raises over the summer while asking Anaheim to kill a pair of tax-rebate agreements, one for a planned luxury hotel that's now canned. The Mouse seemed off the hook until the ordinance's principal author interjected. Attorney Richard McCracken argues that a 1996 Disneyland expansion deal that diverts Disney taxes to pay off bonds for resort-area improvements is a tax rebate the company benefits from. The city attorney begged to differ.

If voters pass Measure L, a judge is likely to make the final call. But with the Resort Elite well-positioned to recapture city hall, the ordinance has use-value as roach repellent for any future tax-subsidy policies.

—GABRIEL SAN ROMAN

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fri/11/02

[PERFORMING ARTS]

TOGETHER AGAIN

Lea Michele and Darren Criss

Multitalented stars of the beloved, long-running Ryan Murphy series *Glee*, Lea Michele and Darren Criss reunite for a musical tour. Their careers have skyrocketed since their stint on the musical television series (most recently, Criss played against type as serial killer Andrew Cunanan in Murphy's stunning mini-series *The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story*), but this tour will have them singing songs from *Glee* as well as covers of hit songs, with Criss at times on piano, drums or guitar accompanying Michele's vocals. Gleeks will relish hearing their favorite tracks again, and everyone should enjoy whatever surprises Michele and Criss have in store for this memorable, thrilling evening.

Lea Michele and Darren Criss at Segerstrom Hall, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. (714) 556-2787. www.scfta.org. 7:30 p.m. $39-$109. —AIMEE MURILLO

[THEATER]

Mystery Train

Murder On the Orient Express

Forget last year's star-powered semi-flop *Murder On the Orient Express* (Johnny Depp's final scene—what *was* that?), we're ready for the La Mirada Theatre's version. If you're not familiar, this is Agatha Christie's most famous story, starring the beloved literary detective Hercule Poirot. The plot is twisty and turny, full of the kind of subtleties and sly glances perfectly suited for the stage. It's also set in the '30s and full of glamorous characters, so best bet the costuming is to die for. This re-enactment, adapted by Tony nominee and Olivier Award-winning playwright Ken Ludwig, makes its West Coast debut this month, but hurry—this train leaves OC for good on Nov. 11.

Murder On the Orient Express at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, 14900 La Mirada Blvd., La Mirada, (714) 994-6310; lamiradatheatre.com. 8 p.m. Through Nov. 11. $20-$84. —ERIN DEWITT

sat/11/03

[FESTIVALS]

BIG LAUGHS AHEAD

Big Adventure Fest

Alt 98.7 an iHeartMedia Los Angeles FM radio station, presents the debut Big Adventure Fest. Attractions include a retro arcade, a gamers' lounge, a cosplay contest, a zombie-shooting range, and an artist alley for meets and greets with the comic-book industry's top artists and creators. What sends the event over the top are panels with the casts and creators of TBS's *Wrecked* and IFC's *Stan Against Evil*; music from Empire of the Sun, Modest Mouse, Phantogram, Cold War Kids and more; standup from Patton Oswalt, Maria Bamford, Jim Jefferies, Kristen Schaal, Natasha Leggero and Ron Funches; and podcast tapings of *Cool Playlist*, featuring Eliza Skinner, and *Alison Rosen Is Your New Best Friend*, hosted by a former OC Weekling.

Big Adventure Fest at OC Fair & Event Center, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, bigadventurefest.com. Noon, also Sun. $49.50-$99.50; children 10 and younger, free with paid adult. —MATT COKER

[CONCERT]

The Fright's Not Over

Danzig Halloween Hell Bash

This one goes out to the folks with the blackest souls—or reasonable facsimiles thereof. Glenn Danzig, the former lead singer of the Misfits and Samhain, celebrates the 30th anniversary of his eponymous band with his only California appearance of 2018. For the Halloween Hell Bash, Danzig will be supported by the Damned, Venom Inc., the Meteors, Power Trip and Mutoid Man. So don ye now your satanic apparel and prepare yourselves for the treat of the season, as the evil horde descends upon Irvine for one chilling night!

MORE » ONLINE
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Danzig at FivePoint Amphitheatre, 14800 Chinon, Irvine, (949) 988-6800, www.fivepointamphitheatre.com. 5:45 p.m. $19.50-$66.60. —SCOTT FEINBLATT

sun/11/04

[THEATER]

Space Kitsch!

Plan 9 From Outer Space

The Maverick Theater's annual production adapted from Ed Wood's 1959 calamitous outer-space farce returns. Join the cast for a treatment unlike any other of the memorable film *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, replete with the original's low-budget spirit and deadpan delivery of its most iconic lines, including "Future events such as these will affect you in the future" and "A flying saucer? You mean the kind from up there?" And even if you've never seen Wood's film, this spectacular, schlocky production will still be a humorous good time. After you've laid witness to this incident, can you prove it didn't happen?

Plan 9 From Outer Space at Maverick Theater, 110 E. Walnut Ave., Fullerton, (714) 526-7070, www.mavericktheater.com. 5 p.m. Through Nov. 17. $10–$20. —AIMEE MURILLO

[CONVENTIONS]

Best Dressed

ComplexCon

Whether you're a sneaker-head, pop-culture fanatic, fashionista or just interested in seeing fascinating live displays from modern-day clothing brands, ComplexCon is here to arouse your creative, trendy side. More than 100 streetwear brands will be selling exclusive items and collaborations from fun and innovative pop-up displays.

The lineup of ComplexCon(versations) offers celebrities, artists, musicians and other fascinating luminaries such as Issa Rae, Action Bronson, Tommy Hilfiger, Jemele Hill, Nas, Raekwon, Lena Waithe and more in enlightening discussions about the future of modern pop culture. Afterward, catch concerts from Future, Action Bronson and others.

ComplexCon at Long Beach Convention Center, 300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, www.complexcon.com. 11 a.m. $60–$300. —AIMEE MURILLO

RASCAL FLATTS
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DIANA KRALL
THIS SAT - NOV 3
J BALVIN
NOV 9
PAULA ABDUL
NOV 17
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mon/11/05

[CONCERT]

Moving Forward

Mike Shinoda

Following the tragic death of Chester Bennington, Linkin Park's future has been up in the air. But Mike Shinoda has been preparing for life after his famous band for many years, first with Fort Minor, and now under his own name. His debut solo effort, the exploratory and adventurous *Post Traumatic*, saw him work with a slew of crossover guests including Chino Moreno, Machine Gun Kelly and K.Flay. Shinoda is doing his best to perform cathartically and authentically.

Mike Shinoda and Don Broco at the House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim. 7 p.m. $49.50. —WYOMING REYNOLDS

tue/11/06

[CONCERT]

Going Psycho

Los Saicos Tribute Night

It's said too often and too casually that so-and-so band shoulda been big, or such-and-such were ahead of their time, but Peru's maniacal Los Saicos really were ahead of the rest of early 1965 and could've had an international hit. More than 50 years later, their viciously charismatic "*Demolición*" is a garage-punk classic. Play it at any garage-adjacent event, then listen as the whole room shouts along: "Ya-ta-ta-ta-ta-ta-ta-ta-YAH-YAH-YAH-YAH!" So there's definitely cause for a Los Saicos tribute night by East LA/Boyle Heights outfit Los Fauna, whose originals (especially "*Adios Mi Amor*" and "Mascara") are plenty Saico-tic anyway.

Los Saicos Tribute Night with Los Fauna at Continental Room, 115 W. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, www.facebook.com/continentalroom. 9 p.m. Free. 21+. —CHRIS ZIEGLER

wed/11/07

[MUSEUMS]

Ahead of His Time

'Donald McKayle: Dancing for All Time'

UC Irvine Libraries regularly stage free shows in the Langson Library lobby, the latest a celebratory archival review of the life of late choreographer Donald McKayle, with photographs and artifacts from the man whose masterwork *Rainbow Round My Shoulder* made him a legend of dance and who helped the musical version of *A Raisin In the Sun* win multiple Tony Awards. First as a dancer, then choreographer and director, and finally as teacher, McKayle broke color barriers and introduced social representation and political activism to dance. To launch the exhibit, you're invited to a panel that includes expert fans and fellow teachers who worked with him at UCI.

"Donald McKayle: Dancing for All Time" at UC Irvine Student Center and Langson Library, UC Irvine, Campus and West Peltason drives, Irvine, (949) 824-6842, www.arts.uci.edu. 5:30 p.m. Free, but reservations required. —ANDREW TONKOVICH

WARNER BROS

[FILM]

UP, UP AND AWAY!

Superman

Long before adults decided to appropriate and ruin all children's superheroes by turning them into dark, flawed killers, director Richard Donner and screenwriter Mario Puzo showed the world how an actual hero behaves. Orphaned, isolated and dismissed, Clark Kent/Kal-El nonetheless dedicates his life to helping others, even when he can just as easily take over the world. Full of charm, thrills and humor, *Superman: The Movie* rocketed adorable Christopher Reeve into history and made us fall just as in love with Margot Kidder's feisty, fabulously brilliant Lois Lane. Go see it again where it rightfully belongs—on the big screen!

Superman at Regency South Coast Village, 1561 W. Sunflower Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 557-5701, www.regencymovies.com. 7:30 p.m. $8.50. —SR DAVIES

thu/11/08

JOHN SONSINI

[ART]

EVERYDAY PEOPLE

'John Sonsini—Daywork: Portraits'

For the past 20 years, John Sonsini has depicted the lives of Los Angeles' Latino day laborers. Rather than working by a photograph or memory, Sonsini welcomes each subject into his studio, allowing a more direct connection between painter and subject. Through this practice, these individuals—who often go about life unseen by or anonymous to the public—have been granted wider notice and dignity. Sonsini tells their collective stories, preserving each subject's humanity and vulnerability.

"John Sonsini—Daywork: Portraits" at Long Beach Museum of Art, 2300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, (562) 439-2119, www.lbma.org. 11 a.m. Through Jan. 6, 2019. $6-$7, seniors 62 and older and children 12 and younger free. —AIMEE MURILLO

[COMEDY]

Brown and Friendly

Maz Jobrani

A frequent visitor to OC's comedy clubs, Maz Jobram appears tonight at the Irvine Improv. He's been visible in many television shows and movies and filmed his own Comedy Central specials, but perhaps what makes his talent so memorable are his takes on race and the common misconceptions about people of Middle Eastern descent. Born in Tehran before moving to California as a youngster, Jobram definitely knows what he's talking about, but his style of addressing the stranger, more absurd aspects of otherness make his tales more relatable and humorous. Find out what other topics are on his mind.

Maz Jobrani at Irvine Improv, 527 Spectrum Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 854-5455, irvine.improv.com. 8 p.m. Through Nov. 11. $35-$85. —AIMEE MURILLO

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11/18 MICHAEL TOMLINSON

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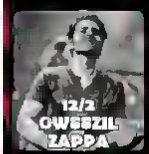
11/29 BAND OF FRIENDS (A Celebration of Rory Gallagher)



12/2 DWEEZIL ZAPPA

12/6 & 12/7 JONNY LANG

12/9 DAVE ALVIN JIMMIE DALE GILMORE

12/14 GARY HO HO HOEY

12/15 ROBERT CRAY

1/4 PONCHO SANCHEZ

1/16 BUCKCHERRY

1/17 THE MAGPIE SALUTE

11/2	DAVID BRIGHTON'S SPACE ODDITY (David Bowie Tribute)	1/12	DESPERADD
11/3	AMBROSIA	1/16	BUCKCHERRY
11/7	WILLIE K / ERIC SARDINAS	1/17	THE MAGPIE SALUTE (The Stone Poxes)
11/9	AMERICA	1/18	TDMMY CASTRD
11/10	AMERICA	1/18	RDBBY KRIEGER
11/11	RICKIE LEE JONES / ALFRED JOHNSON	1/23	ANA PDPDVIC
11/14	THE WIND AND THE WAVE / SHAWN JAMES	1/25	BIG HEAD TODD & THE MDHSTERS
11/15	THE KINGSTON TRIO	1/28	JD SDUTHER
11/16	JOHN MAYALL	1/27	ANNA HALICK
11/17	An Evening with RICHIE FURAY	2/1	THE TUBES
11/18	MICHAEL TOMLINSON	2/2	THE DAH BAHD
11/20	An Unpredictable Evening with TODD RUHDGREH	2/8	JDSHUA RADIH
11/21	An Unpredictable Evening with TODD RUHDGREH	2/10	THE SMITHEREEHS with Guest Vocalist MARSHALL CRENSHAW
11/23	LA GUHS	2/14	OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUHA HEGRA
11/24	SIMPLE MAH (Lynyrd Skynyrd Tribute)	2/24	THE PDUR PRESHMEH
11/29	BAHD OF PRIEHDS (A Celebration of Rory Gallagher)	3/1	TIHSLEY ELLIS / CDCD MDHTDYA
11/30	DSB / Ultimate Adam&	3/10	THE SPIHHERS
12/1	WHICH OHE'S PIHK? performing Dark Side of the Moon	3/16	THE PEHIAHS
12/2	DWEEZIL ZAPPA	3/21	ULI JDH RDTH
12/5	SQUIRREL HUT ZIPPERS	3/22	SUPER DIAMOHD (Neil Diamond Tribute)
12/6	JDHHY LANG	4/18	An Evening with THE MUSICAL BDX
12/7	JDHHY LANG	5/25	DICK DALE
12/8	LED ZEPAGAIH	6/7	ASIA ft. Jonn Payne
12/9	DAVE ALVIH and JIMMIE DALE GILMDRE	9/20	HERMAH'S HERMITS
12/14	GARY Ho Ho HDEY	8/21	HERMAH'S HERMITS
12/15	RDBERT CRAY		
12/18	PRDJECT PRESLEY (Elvis Presley Tribute)		
12/21	BERLIH		
12/22	THE EHGLISH BEAT		
12/23	An Evening with DAVID BENOIT: CHARLIE BRDWN CHRISTMAS		
12/27	DDHAVDH PRAHKEHREITER		
12/28	MARTHA DAVIS and THE MDTELS		
12/29	QUEEH HATIOH		
12/31	BEATLES VS STOHES – A Musical Showdown		
1/4	PDHCHD SAHCHEZ		
1/11	TDMMY EMMANUEL with JOHH KHDWLES		

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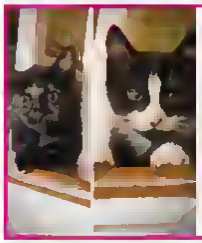
OCWEEKLY Bulletin

Upcoming Events

TROPICÁLIA
November 3&4
Queen Mary Park

3OH!3 x EMONITE
Friday, November 9
Anaheim House of Blues

Messages



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Featured This Week

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Mixed Feelings

is Terrace, Ross Pangilinan's Mix Mix spin-off, as good as the original?

BY EDWIN GO EI

At a recent Jo Koy concert in Brea, the Filipino American comedian lamented how Filipino food hasn't yet permeated into the American culture, an age-old gripe shared by Filipinos and Filipino-food-lovers alike. Once he made his case for why Filipino cuisine should be as popular as Chinese and Vietnamese, he riffed on specific dishes he loved as a kid. It culminated with a story on how his mom used to make him a school lunch of rice and monggo, which, to his embarrassment, she would pack for him in a repurposed Cool Whip container. He had the audience in stitches.

Koy's musings on Filipino food were not only hilarious, but also timely. And it got me thinking: How much longer will it take for adobo to become as ubiquitous as sweet-and-sour? Though there have always been Filipino restaurants that cater to Filipinos, in recent years, only a few restaurants in Orange County have tried to market Pinoy food to the mainstream. Leading the charge is Ryan Garhtos, whose Irenia Restaurant is the first eatery in OC to serve Filipino cuisine for an American audience. I say it's the "first" even though I know that Mix Mix by Ross Pangilinan technically predates it by a few months. But as I said in my review (see "Ross Pangilinan Brings Pinoy Flavors to His Global Cuisine With Mix Mix in Santa Ana," Jan. 12, 2017), Pangilinan's Mix Mix isn't a Filipino place, per se. It's post-Impressionist Filipino—world cuisine painted by an abstract Filipino artist. You have to pay attention to find where Pangilinan has hidden the patis and the calamansi.

But when Pangilinan decides to cook straight-up Filipino dishes—namely the pork cheek adobo that he lays atop sinangag, Filipino garlic fried rice—it's unapologetically authentic on the flavors. The rice was so decadent and perfumed with garlic, it stunk up my breath for hours. And the two falling-apart footballs of pork were tangy, salty, peppery and garlicky—hitting all the requisite notes of vinegar, soy sauce, garlic and black pepper that make up every Filipino mom's secret adobo recipe.

Now comes Mix Mix's spinoff, Terrace, located within the Crate and Barrel Wing of South Coast Plaza. Built inside the gorgeous shell and outdoor patio of what used to be Zcafe, this is an enviable space, arguably one of the best spots in South Coast Plaza to dine outside without being outside. You're always shaded by the building's overhang, and above you, the twinkle lights dangle and swing from the breeze.

But as good as the location is, for some reason, Terrace is even less Filipino than Mix Mix. Of the 20 dishes on the menu, I saw only two that were Filipino or even Filipino-inspired. One of them was the pork cheek adobo, but somehow, this version tasted like a faded carbon copy of the original. The rice was still slicked with grease, but it wasn't garlicky. The pork was fall-apart tender, but it was neither salty, tangy nor much of anything other than fat. And the chicharrones I remember being served for free instead of bread at the Santa Ana restaurant were a no-show; they aren't even offered on the "Snacks" menu.

PHOTOS BY EDWIN GOEI

Instead, I started with pork rillettes, a decent if overbuttered plank of toast speckled with a creamy pork spread, dabs of mustard and house pickles. It left my fingers shiny and slick and me realizing I'd never eaten or seen it at Mix Mix. I did, however, remember having a similar albacore tostada there—a crispy, fried corn-tortilla disk topped with seared albacore covered in Sriracha mayo, avocado mousse and Japanese dressing. But I also recalled that Mix Mix's version was more generous with the fish.

I did love Terrace's roasted shrimp served with gremolata, Korean chili and root vegetables so well-baked it turned to caramel, but the lobster risotto was a disappointment. The dish looked promising at first, sporting a molecular gastronomic head of foam, but the rice was inexplicably watery. It didn't help that the lobster meat on top of it was also rubbery and bland. I considered asking our waiter for lemon and drawn butter, but I didn't. I ate the rest of it in silence.

As with Mix Mix, Terrace offers a four- or six-course prix fixe option in which you get a slight discount over ordering à la carte for smaller portions of the plates. And as with the original, Terrace features a tropical verrine for dessert, a coconut panna cotta topped with mango sorbet, nuts and fruit that's supposed to emulate halo-halo, the parent restaurant's namesake. But despite this, I kept thinking there was still something missing at Terrace, something lacking, something that wasn't there. And when I snuck a peek into the kitchen, I realized what was absent: chef Ross Pangilinan.

TERRACE BY MIX MIX
3333 Bear St., Ste. 316, Costa Mesa, (657) 231-6447, www.terracebymixmix.com. Open Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Dishes, $8-$38. Beer and wine.

WHAT THE ALE
» GREG NAGEL

Is Beer Going Extinct?

How many times have you heard a scientific study that claims to prove one thing, then another study finds the opposite? When I saw an Oct. 15 article from UC Irvine titled "Global Warming Will Have Us Crying In What's Left of Our Beer," I thought it was referring to the Anthill Aramark Pub's central AC unit. Sadly, it's not.

The study, conducted by UCI and other institutions, suggests barley—the key ingredient in beer that creates flavor, sugar for yeast and mouthfeel—will yield less over time because of global warming and drought conditions.

Of course, global warming may pose a threat to a multitude of crops throughout the world, not just barley. But luckily, farmers and agricultural scientists have the wherewithal to forecast change and adapt. According to the Brewers Association, there are a number of factors tied to barley crops' continuel migration, mostly cost of land, yield, environmental changes and the value of even more beneficial crops. In 2017, we saw the lowest U.S. barley production on record, not because of temperatures, but rather because a global glut of grain had farmers reaching for more lucrative crops.

The Brewers Association also says that barley production efficiency has grown. The projections outlined in the paper "do not assess the effect of future changes in barley agriculture," of which there may be many. Over the past 75 years, American barley farmers have averaged a 1.4 percent increase in yield each year.

Malted barley crops are forecast, bought and paid for before they're planted, so I don't foresee a major beer shortage any time soon. Get out of here with that "sky is falling" clickbait, UCI, and get more local beers on tap at the Anthill Pub while you're at it.

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ANNE WATSON PHOTOGRAPHY

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Same As It Ever Was

The Firkin replaces—and improves on—local watering hole EJ Malloy's

ERIN DEWITT

LONG BEACH LUNCH
» ERIN DEWITT

The achingly sober void felt by Long Beach locals this summer upon the closing of nearly three-decades-old Irish sports pub EJ Malloy's thankfully only lasted about two weeks. Many regarded the Broadway EJ's as their home bar, their regular, and that's a hard thing to give up. (The Atlantic Avenue and Britton Drive locations are still open.)

Enter Mia Cornelius and Bruno Rocha, a married couple who live less than a mile from the Broadway pub. Though he has an extensive restaurant background, she's an engineer, but with the help of OG EJ's players, including former owner Brent Brakebill, they decided to buy their first restaurant. But why would an engineer buy a restaurant? "A kitchen is a manufacturing system, albeit small," Cornelius explains, "and whether you're making a rocket or a burger, they all go through a process with certain steps that can be analyzed and improved upon."

One thing that didn't need improving? The staff. The Firkin Pub & Grill's debut Facebook post proudly announced the entire EJ Malloy's staff would be on hand, meaning both front- and back-of-the-house employees, some of whom had worked at that location for more than 20 years, got to stay put. "They have been amazing and so helpful through this transition," Cornelius says. "We never would have been able to be this successful without their efforts."

Cornelius and Rocha also went with a "freshen-up" approach rather than a complete overhaul. The architectural layout and seating design remain unchanged, but the patio was revamped. The private, garden-like outdoor space was transformed into a stylish al fresco area. (The fire pit remains.) Near-future plans include installing a patio entrance along the side of the building, so dog owners can bring their pups to lunch.

The menu, however, is a complete do-over. Where EJ's had (and still offers at its other locations) elevated bar food such as loaded nachos, burgers and even some pretty colorful salads, the Firkin focuses on from-scratch gastropub fare, with nearly half the menu vegan or available as such.

The Heart Cakes appetizer, a top seller, is a veggie-centric version of traditional crab cakes, but the Firkin swaps the crustacean for chickpeas, hearts of palm and artichokes. Each order comes with three amber fried patties, with crispy edges that yield to a delicately flaked center, drizzled with vegan tartar sauce and topped with pickled red onions, then presented alongside a garden salad.

A playful shift on a bar-food classic, the Smoked Pickled Egg appetizer is served sliced over a mound of Goldfish crackers. Stained a light tea color around the exterior, the egg's tang is rounded out by a soft smokiness—and the smiling crackers are an appreciated swap for ol' pretzel sticks any time.

The menu's Entrées, Burgers & Sandwiches section includes curry bowls, steak frites, White Castle-inspired sliders and maple-tempeh sandwiches, but don't skip the classic Nashville Hot Chicken sandwich. The thinly battered fried chicken is made dark with vinegary hot sauce, dressed with coleslaw and fat pickle slices, and finished with a soft, squishy burger bun. Depending how many beers deep you are, you may want to dip the whole thing in ranch.

And to save you a Google search, a *firkin* is a cask for beer, about a quarter-barrel in size, that essentially resembles a mini-keg. To celebrate the pub's official grand opening, to be held Nov. 9 through Nov. 11, Cornelius and Rocha will tap their first firkin of cask ale, a beer made exclusively for the restaurant by Costa Mesa's Barley Forge Brewing Co. After that, a different firkin of cask ale will be introduced every two or three weeks, all from rotating local breweries.

THE FIRKIN PUB & GRILL
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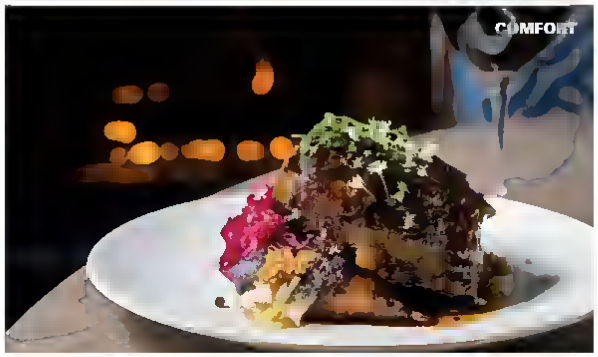

ANNE WATSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Circle of Life

Five Crowns' fall menu celebrates the harvest season

At its simplest, a restaurant kitchen is merely a heat source that can turn raw ingredients into cooked food. If it's fancy, a place might have someone convert trees into tables and chairs, clay into various tiles and plates, and forge steel into cookware and utensils.

Although it seems silly to whittle it down to that, not much has changed with cooking since primitive times, and not much has altered the idea of going out to eat in the past 100 years, aside from a few helpful phone apps.

This thought hit me while cuddled into a cozy, U-shaped booth at Five Crowns, mesmerized by the shadows of flames from the fireplace flickering across nearby smiling faces. People come here to celebrate life's special moments: a birthday, a retirement, etc. The lovely couple next to me are marking their 22nd wedding anniversary, sweetly holding hands under the table. Their secret to a lasting marriage? Order the same thing: two prime ribs cooked medium rare, accompanied by statuesque Yorkshire puddings to keep it interesting.

But I was there with nothing to celebrate other than really great food and drinks.

What makes Five Crowns exceptional isn't the classic British country inn look and feel, but rather the people who make it come alive. General manager Kenyon Paar floats around the restaurant floor as if he's a ballerina, while my server rattles off why a Spanish Tempranillo will go great with the pork shank on the new fall menu. The restaurant's honorary ambassador, Tommy "the Roadrunner" Martin, has been greeting tables for more than 50 years, he's so full of charm and wit I quietly contemplate kidnapping him for a beer after dinner at the SideDoor, Five Crowns' adjoining gastropub.

The back of the house is where the main attraction lies. Young, exciting executive chef Alejandra Padilla has created

Eat & Drink This Now

» GREG NAGEL

fall dishes that look inspired by Mother Nature, and the appetizers could pass for high-end SideDoor gastropub plates. The plump, toasty foie gras doughnuts ($29) also take on a bit of dramatic irony. Fatten up the duck to harvest its delicious liver, then inject that goodness into a doughnut covered with pomegranate syrup and sea salt that will fatten us up. It's the circle of life, really.

If you happened to miss Oktoberfest in Munich, the braised pork shank is a worthy stand-in without having to endure an 11-hour flight. Pair the heaping meat with a local craft lager or a dry and effervescent Lotus Flower Bomb cocktail. Or you can do what I did and try to stump the sommelier. Turns out, he knows his stuff. The Tempranillo has the uncanny ability to lift the sweet red cabbage in the dish into a jammy bliss, whereas the grape tannin hacking it up helps you reach total pork enlightenment. Truly genius.

FIVE CROWNS

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Something Witchy This Way Comes

The 1977 cult classic *Suspiria* gets a Hollywood reboot

BY AIMEE MURILLO

Dario Argento's 1977 film *Suspiria* has haunted and mystified audiences for decades, partly because of its radiant, psychedelic energy and decadently stylized violence; it seems less like a movie and more like a vibrant objet d'art. It's the unofficial gold standard of *giallo* horror films, so much so that the idea of a remake seemed like some sort of cinematic blasphemy when it was announced in early 2008. Still, *Call Me By Your Name* director Luca Guadagnino created an even more stylized, artistic and tonally different remake that stays consistent with the original's main narrative while adding much more backstory and character development.

But this compelling new version suffers from *too much* information and story, giving away all details, subtext and answers, removing it of its enigma and mystery. And the mystery is a major part of what makes the original *Suspiria* so deliriously wonderful, it follows its own unwieldy dream logic without feeling the need to tie up the answers in a neat bow. It's surprising for an art movie to be so revealing instead of letting the audience do some of the work, and frankly, it prevents me from completely embracing it.

Guadagnino's *Suspiria* takes place in 1977 Berlin, where a distressed and paranoid young American woman named Patricia Hingle (Chloë Grace Moretz) bursts through her therapist's office, schizophrenically babbling about the coven of witches who run the Helena Markos Dance Academy where she studies. Despite her clearly distraught and unhinged state, Dr. Josef Klemperer (played by Tilda Swinton in old-man prosthetics) remains skeptical, but it isn't until Patricia disappears and leaves her notebook with hand-scribbled details about the coven that he begins to investigate.

Meanwhile, Susie Bannion (a Gothic, red-headed Dakota Johnson) leaves her dying mother and Mennonite lifestyle behind in Ohio to attend the prestigious Helena Markos Dance Academy. She shows up unannounced and begs for an audition, and since Patricia is formally missing, her absence leaves a spot open for Susie to join. Susie's incredible natural talent wins her placement in the school, and soon she earns the lead in the upcoming recital, *Volk*, as well as favoritism with the school's lead instructor, Madame Blanc (Swinton again, here looking like a Pina Bausch-lite).

The knowledge of the school's witchcraft activities is obvious to the audience from the beginning but only dubiously suspected by its students, among them Olga (Elena Fokina) and Sara (Mia Goth). Susie seems preternaturally unfazed by any of the supernatural goings-on around her, and her matrons begin to prime her as the key to securing their headmistress Markos' legacy. Unexpectedly, for everyone involved, Susie is more qualified and up for the role than they think.

Divided into six chapters plus an epilogue, Guadagnino's *Suspiria* is extremely more muted from the visual style to the score, which is splendidly written by Radiohead's Thom Yorke. The director makes sure the paranoia and dread are palpable, from the aggressive, jolting camera zooms-ins and jump cuts to the ongoing references and newsreel footage to the political turmoil du jour brought on by the Baader-Meinhof group. This *Suspiria* aims to reflect the zeitgeist of 1970s Germany still reeling from the trauma of the Holocaust—a very clear display of a Rainer Werner Fassbinder influence, but it doesn't add much to the story at hand.

SANDRA KOPP, COURTESY OF AMAZON

Some things I did appreciate: a more direct link drawn between dance and witchcraft, both of which bring connections between spiritual and carnal energies. This link is stunningly displayed in the violent death scenes that collect the more unfortunate characters, and while not as bloody or ostentatious as Argento's, they are still elegantly shot and stylized.

While Susie's friend Sara has more to do than in the original, Dr. Klemperer frustratingly gets more screen time and backstory than he deserves, which helps to bloat the film's running time to 152 minutes. That said, I can't deny the amazing acting job Swinton delivers (what *can't* she do?). Johnson, speaking with the breathy naivete of her *Fifty Shades of Grey* character, is unexpectedly perfect for the role of Susie.

There's a lot to admire about Guadagnino's version of *Suspiria*, which he wrote with David Kajganich. Hell, even original star Jessica Harper, who has a cameo in this one, gives it her seal of approval. But depending on how you view the original film, it will likely influence your viewing of Guadagnino's. Argento's treatment is mesmerizing, breaking from genre conventions and giving your imagination room to roam; Guadagnino's is pretty, haunting and provides more story, but it also holds your hand to explain the horror well past its final, bloody coda. It's definitely a film that dances to the rhythm of its own chilling music, but I think I'll sit this dance out.

AMURILLO@OCWEEKLY.COM

SUSPIRIA

was directed by Luca Guadagnino, written by Guadagnino and David Kajganich and stars Dakota Johnson, Tilda Swinton, Chloë Grace Moretz and Mia Goth. Opens Fri.

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Horror Show

Celebrated OC artist Richard Day Gore brings old-school frights to Fullerton

BY JOEL BEERS

When it comes to storytelling, a single piece of art, or even a collection of pieces, doesn't provide the kind of narrative structure we get from reading a novel or watching a play or movie. And if there is a story worth telling, it's usually the one that stems from the imagination of the creator, not the subjective one supplied by the viewer.

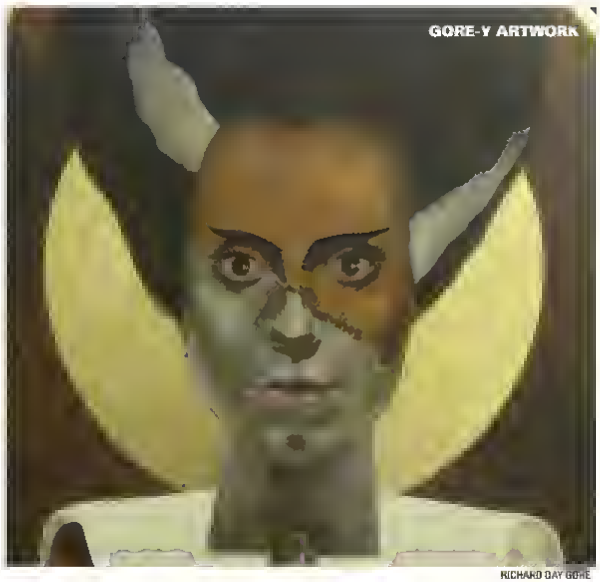
But Richard Day Gore, a Fullerton-based artist/writer/musician/you-name-it, works differently. He wants the viewer to have as much ownership at stake in the experience of art as the person who created it—and to realize that every other viewer has their own share.

"I consider myself more of a storyteller [than a painter]," says Gore, whose latest collection, the old-school horror film-tinged "Alternative Gods: Relics From the Tomb of Dr. Conrad Six," opens Friday. Two years ago, his "Valerie's Family Secrets" collection was tagged by *OC Weekly* art critic Dave Barton as one of the best art shows of the year. "I like to do things that engage other people's creativity, and the idea behind these collections is that they imply a larger narrative without saying what it might be."

The goal, according to Gore, is to engage every viewer to craft his or her own narrative for the pieces on display—and then realize that everyone else around them is doing the same thing and that "everybody's interpretation of this stuff is completely valid," he says. "This is an opportunity for someone to not only spin their own reality [about the story his pieces might be telling], but also to step into someone's reality and to realize that even if they don't agree with them, that reality is completely valid."

Gore says he hopes to light an imagination fuse that prompts viewers to dig deeper than the surface of each painting, much as "Valerie's Family Secrets" did. "It was so rewarding to me as an artist to hear and watch people go from one painting to another—and to talk to each other and complete strangers about what they thought," he says. "I felt I had done something right when I saw other people participating in the end result. It was like living theater, where the audience becomes part of the show."

While these approximately 20 paintings share a similar create-your-own-narrative vein as "Valerie's Family Secrets," Gore says it's also far more "esoteric." For that earlier collection, the pieces were displayed chronologically and the viewer was told they relate to an artist helping his infirm mother arrange her possessions into shipping cartons, so they could then imagine what her life was like. This time around, we are in a much more macabre world.



RICHARD DAY GORE

Posters explain the backstory: Dr. Conrad Six (doctor of what? *Hmm*...) was the head of a long-established family who, in the 1930s, disappeared under mysterious circumstances. He and his family were fascinated by "the concepts of divinity, the origins of religion, the nature of eternity and the spark of life, all these classic horror-film, *Frankenstein*-like things," Gore says.

Years after the doctor's disappearance, workers in Central Europe discovered an underground complex that turned out to be the ruins of the family castle. There, they found the family crypt decorated with religious icons and artifacts that manifest in Gore's show as images that many people might recognize as looking an awful lot like classic horror-film characters such as the Phantom of the Opera, the Wolfman and the Bride of Frankenstein.

But there's something noticeably different. The phantom appears to be flipping a die, the bride appears to be multi-racial, or is it multi-sexual? And there are other paintings—such as the mutilated cover of a family Bible or the finger of Michelangelo's God attached to an arm that appears to be a wooden model—that can all be seen as clues to unravel the mystery of Dr. Six.

Gore isn't concerned with viewers cracking some kind of code that reveals what they think his narrative is, but through considering his creations, he wants viewers to craft stories that will give him a different glimpse about his own work.

"I'm really looking forward to hearing the interpretations," he said. "Is this a family of vampires? Did they embrace a kind of alternative theology? In his search for divinity, did Dr. Conrad Six somehow meld the races or the genders? What if the gods we worship are actually demons?... These are all possible interpretations, and they are all valid, and what I can't wait to hear is someone who comes up with something entirely different, and I think, 'Oh, man, I wish I had thought of that!'"

"ALTERNATIVE GODS: RELICS FROM THE TOMB OF DR. CONRAD SIX" at Max Bloom's Café Noir, 220 N. Malden Ave., Fullerton, (657) 669-0002. Opening reception, Fri., 6-10 p.m. Running for as long as this funky, cool-as-shit place is open, which is probably only until December, when the lease expires.

ARTSOVERLOAD

» AIMEE MURILLO

Nov. 2-6

FRANKENSTEIN: This faithful theatrical production tells the tale of scientist Victor Frankenstein's obsessive quest to build a man through reanimated body parts from cadavers, which spurs unintended consequences. Thurs.-Fri., 7:30 p.m., Sat., 2 & 7:30 p.m., Nov. 11, 2 p.m. Through Nov. 11. $13-$15. Vanguard Lyceum Theater, 55 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 668-6145; www.vanguardtickets.com.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MASTERS OF CRIME: The legendary crime solver looks to catch a crew of violent things after he's their latest target, enlisting the help of a budding detective. Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m., Sun., 5 p.m. Through Nov. 4. $20. Camino Real Playhouse, 31776 El Camino Real, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 489-9082; caminorealplayhouse.org.

"THE WORLD OF TROUNG TIEN NGUYEN: AN EXHIBIT OF OIL PAINTINGS BY *THE* HOFFMAN FABRICS ARTIST": Though he's designed textiles for the Mission Viejo-based company for more than 40 years, Nguyen here exhibits a series of paintings that capture his fascination with the lush scenery of Halong Bay in North Vietnam. Sat., 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun., 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Nguni Viet Gallery, 14771 Moran St., Westminster, (714) 892-9414, www.facebook.com/TheArtistHne.

ANNUAL TRASH BAG FASHION SHOW: Huntington Beach Academy for the Performing Arts presents a student choreographed fashion show and dance performance encompassing the theme "Trash N' Roll." Sat., 11:30 a.m. $20-$40. Dwyer Middle School Auditorium, 1502 Palm Ave., Huntington Beach, www.tutorix.com/apadancegrid.

NOCHE DE ALTARES: The annual *Dia De Los Muertos* event features a wide range of colorful altars honoring and commemorating the loved ones of locals who have passed on. Sat., noon. Free. Downtown Santa Ana, Fourth Street between French and Ross, Santa Ana; www.facebook.com/ElCentroCultural/.

OCMA COMMUNITY CELEBRATION: Events launching the Orange County Museum of Art's temporary space include a talk with artist Rodrigo Valenzuela, a dance performance by Jen Seriolo and concerts by the Agnadeffs. Sat., noon. Free. OCMAEXPAND, Santa Ana, 1661 W. Sunflower Ave., Santa Ana, (949) 759-1122; www.ocma.net.

"SUPER SARAP" GROUP EXHIBITION: Mik Gaspay, Joanna Jalandoni and D-M. Frence Viana explore their connections to the Filipino food they grew up with, as well as how it's contextualized in American cuisine. Opening reception Sat., 6-9 p.m. Open by appointment. Through Dec. 15. Free. Gallery 6/67, 404 W. Fourth St., Ste. K, Santa Ana, (424) 228-0402; gallery667.com.

OC Rapper Keeps It Pushin'

How Innate found new inspiration by riding his bike across the country

BY NATE JACKSON

It's been a full year since OC rapper Innate released his solo album, *Ways to Go*, with rhymes chronicling the social and artistic vagabond's struggles with the complex life changes of a man in his 30s. The rapper born Nate Wolvin probably didn't think it would lead to him embarking on the most ambitious long-distance trip of his life—a 5,000-mile bike ride with a friend across the U.S. Obviously, if there's one side effect of being cooped up in your garage for a year working on an album, it's the need to escape. And last spring, Wolvin took that idea a little farther than most.

"It wasn't the most responsible move, dropping an album and taking off," Wolvin says. He's been visiting his mother in San Antonio, Texas, since he completed his three-month journey in August. "I probably should've been putting together a music tour instead of a bike tour."

However, at the time, few things seemed more satisfying to the co-founding member of respected OC rap group Rock Bottom than the open road. The idea for the trip was spurred by an encounter he had with a group of cyclists at a 7-Eleven. He knew by their rugged looks, packs of supplies and racing bikes that they'd been on a long haul, similar to the rides from Canada to Mexico he'd heard about from some of his friends. "I thought that shit was crazy, and these dudes were doing that. They had these big beards like they'd been on the road for a minute," Wolvin says. "I always thought that'd be sick to do something like that."

Fresh off releasing *Ways to Go*, Wolvin and longtime friend Jack Staley decided to take the journey together, despite the fact that neither of them was a serious biker. "We didn't even have bikes or any of the gear, so we just started getting it together," Wolvin says.

Some research led them to the TransAmerica Trail—which stretches from Astoria, Oregon, all the way to Yorktown, Virginia. After a month of talking about it, they began prepping and buying as much used gear as they could find, including some racing bikes from the '80s.

They hopped a plane to Oregon, then biked 20 miles to Astoria, they went another 50 miles on their first full day on the road. "That [first day] really made me realize what we were getting into," Wolvin says.

Using the bike tourists' site warmshowers.com, they mapped out spots to crash along their route. In Missoula, Montana, the duo stopped at a house well-known among the touring-cyclist community. "We were told that there's this dude in [Missoula] who lets people stay on his lawn or in his house. We got to the dude's house with a giant lawn, and people were just coming and going," Wolvin recalls.

Wolvin and Staley stayed there for a week while waiting for Wolvin's dad to join them for the 400-mile trip to Yellowstone National Park.

Throughout the trek, Wolvin says, he rarely listened to music, opting to pedal in silence—and save his phone battery. However, he says, he was always thinking about rhymes. "I kept a journal for the first two weeks, but I just said, 'Screw this' after a while," Wolvin says. "I didn't do much writing, but I thought about it a lot, and the experience made me realize how much I enjoy making music."

Their daily workout burned thousands of calories per day, and their diet was pretty ordinary: a lot of tortillas, peanut butter, honey and whatever semi-healthy options they could find at the Dollar Stores they spotted. The travelers lived on an average of $10 per day. "I was vegetarian for a while before the trip, but at a certain point, the options were so limited that I said, 'Fuck it,' and I ate whatever," Wolvin says. "A lot of ramen and instant oatmeal."

After a while, the thrill of nature and cruising through lush forests and camping near the Grand Tetons was the fuel they relied on most to keep the trip going.

WOLVIN (LEFT) AND STALEY GET THEMSELVES IN GEAR

COURTESY OF INNATE

Through every town, Wolvin and Staley would ride past "white bicycles" tied to sign- and lampposts, marking where riders had been killed by cars. While biking through Montana, Wolvin was sideswiped by a car as he was on his way to the post office to pick up a package; the driver had to pay through insurance to fix Wolvin's bike.

Even during one of the few times he needed a ride by car, things didn't get much safer. While his riding partner took a few days off with his girlfriend in Colorado, Wolvin hopped on a bus with some friends of his who were playing on the Warped Tour. He parted ways with them in Kansas City, Missouri, to wait for Staley, spending the night on a park bench. He awoke to a text from one of the friends he'd been riding with, saying the bus had been hit three hours after leaving him. "They got hit by a drunk driver, and the whole bus flipped," Wolvin says. Luckily, everyone survived, sustaining minor injuries—even one of the passengers who was flung from the vehicle.

Though the near-tragedy might have been enough to make the rapper rethink his journey, he decided to press on, riding with Staley through Kansas City, Missouri, and St. Louis on the Katy Trail, which runs 400 miles alongside the Missouri River. "They have a lot of old train tracks along the Missouri River that aren't getting used anymore, so they cover them with crushed limestone and turn them into bike trails," Wolvin explains. "They were really cool trails that take you through areas you'd never end up going."

When they reached Philadelphia, it started to set in how close they were to finishing the trip. Wolvin recalls he and Staley were riding longer days, sleeping in local churches and waking up at 4:30 a.m. to eat and get on the road before 6. The last stretch was their longest, and they pushed themselves the 100 miles from Philly to New York.

Those three months on the road inspired Wolvin to take music and his writing more seriously. Every day since, the impact of his journey sinks in a little more. It also put a lot of his anxieties about his career into perspective. As he plans his next moves, his instincts—and his quads—are definitely strong enough to lead him in the right direction.

"One of my biggest fears in life has been to be complacent. I don't like routine, but you need a healthy routine to get anywhere. But it's more about knowing what you want out of life, figuring out how to get there and set up goals to get there," Wolvin says. "That's what this trip was like."

NJACKSON@OCWEEKLY.COM

COURTESY OF CRIMSON APPLE

Bewitching Rockers

Crimson Apple went from aloha kids to Anaheim favorites

BY JOSH CHESLER

While most of their peers were still figuring out what they wanted to do after graduation, the Benson sisters already had their next moves planned out. They were ready to leave their life in Hawaii to further their music career in Southern California.

After gaining some local and internet traction over the first three years of their career—thanks to the wide array of cover songs they'd posted on YouTube—and the self-release of their debut record, *Hello*, Colby (vocals), Shelby (guitar), Carthi (bass) and Faith (drums) Benson packed their bags and brought Crimson Apple to the mainland. "It was a crazy time, but it was also a lot of fun and very helpful," Colby says. "Ever since we've been here, we've been having such a great time. It's one of the coolest things that we've done."

Crimson Apple have been focusing on performing live, but they recently released the first of a new set of tracks, the decidedly poppy "Can't Get Out of Bed."

"It's been three years since we've released our last album, and we've grown a lot since then," Colby says. "Moving to California has really changed our sound, and we're so excited to show people what we've become and what we sound like now. We've been in the studio all summer, so we've got all this music that we're super-excited to share with people now."

Even as the band picks up steam with new tracks and a slot on the upcoming High School Nation Tour, some things still feel largely the same for them as when they were just kids living in Hawaii. "We have this sort of chemistry as siblings, and there are no boundaries between us, so we can always speak our mind," Colby says. "We always seem to be on the same page with our music since we grew up together and have a lot of similar experiences, whereas that can be hard for bands sometimes. There are moments when we do fight because we're siblings, and that happens, but what's nice is that we can get over it in, like, five minutes and continue on."

"Growing up, we were always close," Shelby adds. "We've always played music together, but something about having this dream and goal that we're all working toward has helped us come even closer together. We're one another's best friends, and I think out of everything, that's really the coolest thing about us being in a band together as sisters."

Also cool is that Crimson Apple have accomplished something early in their career that few artists get the chance to do in their lifetimes. After attending a Thanksgiving event at Disneyland shortly after moving into the neighborhood, the Bensons decided they'd like to be one of the acts performing inside the park. "Within a year [after that Thanksgiving event], we ended up auditioning for Disney, and I guess they liked us enough that we started playing in Downtown Disney, and then inside the park," Colby says. "It's honestly mind-blowing that we've been able to play there, and the people have just been amazing."

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For more information on Crimson Apple, visit crimsonappleband.com.

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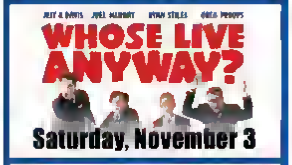

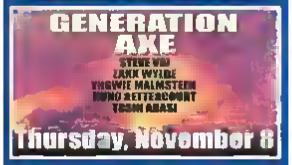

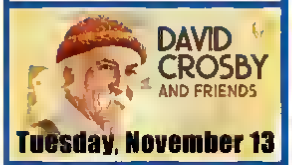

concert guide»

FRANK MADDOCKS

Friday

CKY, NEKROGOBLIKON 7 p.m. $20, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim. (714) 778-2583. www.houseofblues.com/anaheim

DAY OF THE DEAD, WITH SIMBALA 6 p.m., $15, all ages. Garden Amp, 12762 Main St., Garden Grove. (949) 415-8544. gardenamp.com.

***DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS* FEST ON PINE WITH JENNY AND THE MEXICATS, BANG DATA, LA MISA NEGRA.** 5 p.m., free, all ages. Pine Avenue, between Fourth and Sixth streets, Long Beach. www.lacanhak.com/DOLMLongBeach

GARRETT HAZEN, ALL THINGS BLUE, JAKE TITTLE, DCR POLLOCK. 8 p.m. $5. 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com

STRUNG OUT, PULLEY, THE BOMBPOPS, SPIDER: 8 p.m., $18, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

Saturday

BIG ADVENTURE FEST noon, $49.50-$249.50, all ages. OC Fair and Events Center, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa. bigadventurefest.com

***DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS*, WITH REVERE IRATION SOUNDSYSTEM.** 4 p.m., $15, all ages. Garden Amp, 12762 Main St., Garden Grove. (949) 415-8544, gardenamp.com

DRABE'S GOING AWAY PARTY, WITH VINNIE AND THE HOOLIGANS, DJ BRUCE BINGSTING 9 p.m., free, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com

MALACATES TREBOL SHOP 8 p.m., $10, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin. (714) 544-1995; www.martysonnewport.com.

STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO, MEPHISKAPHELES: 8 p.m., $22, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com

THE STRUTS: 6:30 p.m. $23, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim. (714) 778-2583; www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

TROPICALIA FEST noon, $39.50-$7,500, all ages. *Queen Mary*, 1126 Queens Hwy., Long Beach. tropicaliafest.com

Sunday

BIG ADVENTURE FEST noon, $49.50-$249.50, all ages. OC Fair and Events Center, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa. bigadventurefest.com

PEACH PIT 10 p.m., $15. 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin. (714) 544-1995; www.martysonnewport.com.

PUBLIC IMAGE LTD 8 p.m., $45, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com

TROPICALIA FEST noon, $39.50-$7,500, all ages. *Queen Mary*, 1126 Queens Hwy., Long Beach. tropicaliafest.com

Monday

FLIPP DINEBO 8 p.m., $15, all ages. The Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

THE GOSPEL SWAMP 8 p.m., free. 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com.

GUB OAPPERTON 9 p.m., $15, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin. (714) 544-1995; www.martysonnewport.com.

MIKE SHINODA. $49.50. 7 p.m., all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim. (714) 778-2583; www.houseofblues.com/anaheim

Tuesday

DEATH FROM ABOVE, CRX 8:30 p.m. $27.50, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

Wednesday

ANOY GRAMMER 7 p.m., $29.50, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim. (714) 778-2583; www.houseofblues.com/anaheim

BUINRA, MOONLIGHT GRAHAM 8 p.m., $10-$12, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com

PETIT BISCUIT 8 p.m., $30, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

PLAIN WHITE T'S 7 p.m., $20, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim. (714) 778-2583; www.houseofblues.com/anaheim

SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS: 8 p.m., $15, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin. (714) 544-1995; www.martysonnewport.com.

Thursday, Nov. 8

IOB 8 p.m., $18, all ages. The Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

MESA RIOT, THE DAISY PUSHERS, BLINDBOSS, BLACK LIGHTS 8 p.m., $5. 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com.

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Floored

I'm a 40-year-old married straight woman. I gave birth to our first kid in 2015 and our second earlier this year. My perineum tore and was stitched both times. I have not been able to have sex with penetration since having my second child. My OB/GYN said I'm "a little tighter now" because of the way the stitching was performed. My husband is very well-endowed, and I can't imagine how on earth I'm ever going to get that thing back in me, let alone enjoy it. We have a history of pretty hot sex, and I really miss it. I've been searching online for some sex toys to help me. I've never used sex toys before; I've always been able to have thrilling orgasms easily without any devices. I still can with manual stimulation. But I want to have sex with my husband. I'm confused, and I just don't know what I need to help me open back up and get through the pain. Please help!

Thanks in Advance

"Unfortunately, this situation is very common—but luckily there are options to help her get her groove back," said Dr. Rachel Gelman, a pelvic-floor physical therapist at the Pelvic Health and Rehabilitation Center (pelvicpainhelp.com).

Also sadly common: OB/GYNs shrugging off concerns such as yours. TIA.

"I see that all the time," said Dr. Gelman. "Part of the problem is that the pelvic floor/muscles aren't on most doctor's radar. That's due to many factors—*cough, cough, insurance companies, cough, our dysfunctional health-care system, cough*—but to water it down, it's the OB/GYN's job to get someone through pregnancy and deliver a healthy baby. And when that's accomplished, the feeling is their job is done."

But so long as you're not able to have *and* enjoy PIV sex with your hung husband, TIA, there's still work to do.

"TIA needs to see a pelvic-floor physical therapist," said Dr. Gelman. "A good PT would be able to assess and treat any pelvic-floor dysfunction, which is often the primary cause or a contributing factor for anyone experiencing pain with sex, especially after childbirth."

At this point, Dr. Gelman began to explain that pushing a living, breathing, screaming human being out of your body is an intense experience—and I explained to Dr. Gelman that I've had to push a few living, breathing, screaming human beings out of *my* body, thank you very much. Dr. Gelman clarified that she was talking about "the trauma of labor and delivery," something with which I have no experience.

"Labor and delivery can have a significant impact on the pelvic-floor muscles that can cause a myriad of symptoms," said Dr. Gelman. Pain during PIV sex sits high on the list of those symptoms.

"The fact that TIA had tearing with the deliveries means she most likely has scar tissue, and a PT would again be able to treat the scar to help decrease any hypomobility and hypersensitivity," said Dr. Gelman. "A pelvic-floor specialist can also instruct her in a home program that may include stretches, relaxation techniques and dilators—dilators are graduated cylinders that are inserted vaginally to help stretch the vaginal opening and promote relaxation of the pelvic floor."

A set of "graduated cylinders" is essentially "a bouquet of dildos," TIA. You start with the smallest dilator/dildo, inserting it every day until you can insert it without any pain or discomfort, and then you "graduate" (*nudge, nudge*) to the next "cylinder" (*wink, wink*). You can order a set of dilators online, TIA, but Dr. Gelman wants you to find a doc that specializes in sexual medicine first.

"There are some good medical associations that she can check out for resources and to help locate a provider in her area," said Dr. Gelman. "The websites of the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health (ISSWSH), the International Society for Sexual Medicine (ISSM) and the International Pelvic Pain Society (IPPS) are where she should start."

Follow Dr. Gelman on Instagram: @pelvichealthst

I'm a 30-year-old woman, and about a year ago, I started taking improv classes to help combat my social anxiety. I met a lot of awesome people in my class, but I took a particular shine to this one guy. He was a gentle soul, very sweet and really funny. We quickly became friends. Eventually, I developed feelings for him and asked him out. He appreciated the offer but told me that he was gay. I was shocked and disappointed, but I wanted to keep our friendship, so I tried to get over my feelings. Not only haven't these feelings gone away, but I'm also actually falling in love with him. He recently confessed to me that he's still semi-closeted and dealing with a bad breakup, so I really don't want to add to his problems. This is such a mess. I found this wonderful guy who I care about, and yet nothing will ever happen because I was born the wrong gender. What can I do?!?

Introvert Makes Pass, Regrets Overture Very Seriously

Nothing.

You can't make that gay guy fall in love with you, IMPROVS, any more than I could make Hasan Minhaj fall in love with me. Getting over him is your only option, and that's gonna take some time and most likely some space too. (I'd recommend seeing less of your crush after this class ends.) But give yourself some credit for doing something proactive about your social anxiety, for taking a risk, and for asking your classmate out. You didn't take that improv class to find love, right? You took it to combat your social anxiety—and it sounds as if you won a few battles. IMPROVS, if not the war. The takeaway here isn't "It didn't work with him, so why should I bother ever trying again with someone else?"—but rather "I did it—I made a connection. I asked someone out—and I'm going to do it again, and hopefully it'll work out next time."

I'm an early 30s hetero-flexible man in an open marriage with a bi woman, though both of us have been too chickenshit to actually go through on acting on the "open" part. Neither of us is hung up on jealousy, so that's not a factor here. I recently confessed to my wife that I have had a long-standing desire to sleep with a trans woman. Yes, I know that it's immature to not have disclosed all my kink cards prior to marriage, but I have my reasons, and thankfully, my wonderful wife let me off the hook and was very supportive. I expressed to her that I have considered seeing a professional trans escort rather than trying for a "hook up" situation. Her reaction was highly negative, as she has the impression that anyone in the sex trade industry is—by definition—a victim. Where do I go from here? I am uncomfortable with the idea of putting myself out there to meet a trans woman in my city (especially since I'm not looking for a relationship), but I don't want to violate my wife's trust and use an escort.

Don't Know What To Do

Put yourself on a dating and/or hookup app, say that you're partnered and only looking for something casual, and add that you welcome responses from trans women. Some trans women are rightly annoyed by all the cis men out there who only wanna hook up. DKWTD, and never date or be seen in public with them. But trans folks are just like other folks—some are taken, some are looking, some are taken and looking. If you get grief from a trans woman who's annoyed that you aren't open to dating women like her, DKWTD. Let her vent—her frustrations are perfectly legitimate—while you wait for a response from a trans woman looking to buy what you're selling.

P.S. The trans escorts I know—women who freely chose their jobs—will be surprised to learn they're victims, at least according to your highly opinionated and woefully misinformed wife.

On the Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com), Is there a urologist in the house? Yes, yes, there is. Contact Dan via mail@savagelove.net, follow him on Twitter @FakeDanSavage, and visit ITMFA.org.*

SavageLove

» DAN SAVAGE

TOKE OF THE WEEK

» JEFFERSON VANBILLIARD

Canna Hemp

As a firm believer in the power of rituals, I sat down after an exhausting workday to get lit, stare at the Netflix menu, and try to not think about anything other than food. Normally, I would have opted for the knockout effects of one of my favorite indica strains, but this night was different. I wanted to try the fastest wax offering from Canna Hemp.

Each dab contains 99 percent pure CBD extract and is THC-free. Derived from organically cultivated hemp, you can expect to feel as if you just won the lottery when medicating with this butane-free sauce. It's ideal for use with a wax vaporizer or dab rig. The taste is pure sunshine mixed with a hint of spice and will have you feeling *nice* in no time.

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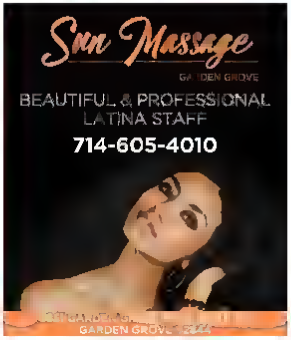
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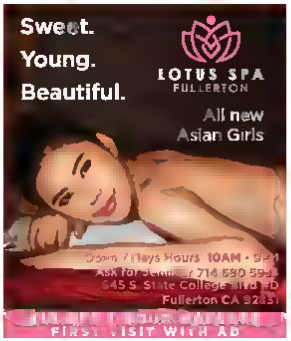
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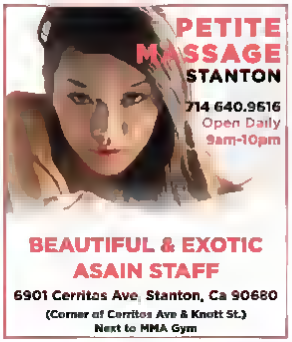
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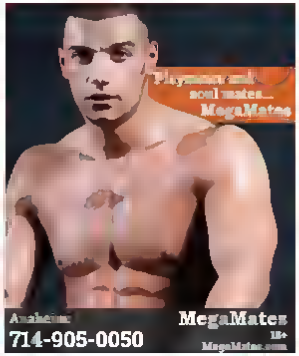
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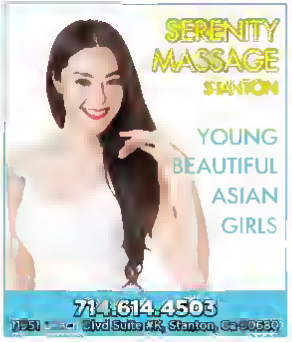
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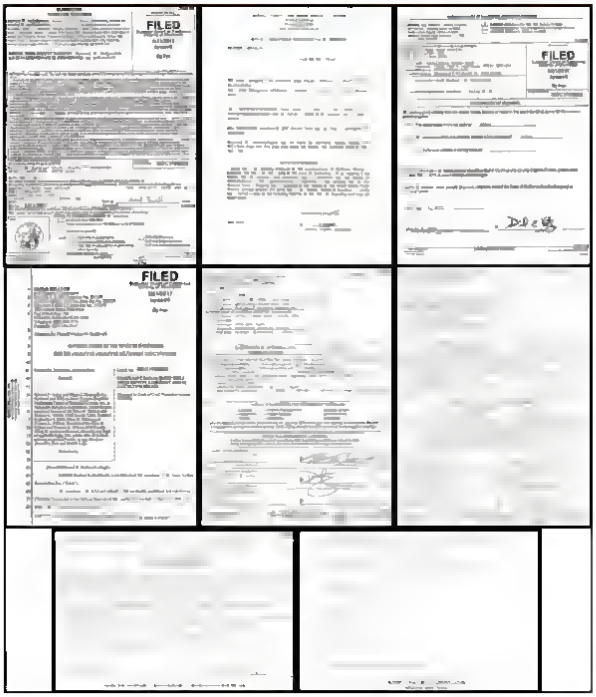

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Any person wishing to comment on the application may submit written comments to the Regional Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its regional office, 25 Jessie Street at Ecker Square, Suite 2300, San Francisco, California 94105, not later than 15 days after date of the application. The public portion of the application is on file in the regional office and is available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the public portion of the application are available on request.

Published pursuant to sections 303.7 and 303.86 of the rules and regulations of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

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The Enemy of the People? It's Us

Vote like your life depended on it

BY JIM WASH BURN

I am a single-issue voter this year because all other issues are wrapped around this one thing: Donald Trump.

We need representatives in Congress who will do their constitutional job of being a check on runaway executive power. We need state representatives who will stand up to his administration's attacks on our environment, freedom, morality and well-being. We need people in city and county government who won't just use it as a stepping-stone to higher office, where they can abet the badness going on.

Remember how the last presidential election was the most consequential of our lifetimes? Well, we blew that one by not having a 3,080,000-vote majority instead of the measly 3 million we had. (That 80,000-vote difference was in three goober states targeted by Trump's campaign—and by his Russian bunkmates, we've since learned—to produce his electoral college win.)

Trump's presidency has been the daily trainwreck of malevolence, willful ignorance and ineptitude that even conservative pundits and politicos had predicted before his election. So now THIS is the most consequential election of our lifetimes, in which we must hope against hope to overcome the Republican-led voter suppression, continued Russian meddling and the unlimited dark money being used to tilt the vote (not to mention aboveground money, including $400 million from the Koch brothers and their allied donors and $100 million from Sheldon Adelson).

It's impossible to list Trump's daily proofs of unsuitability for office, so let's look at two recent issues: his defense of Saudi Arabia's murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and his response to the explosive devices mailed to persons Trump has singled out as enemies.

Even when it was becoming obvious something underhanded happened to U.S.-based journalist Khashoggi, Trump was likening those accusing the Saudis to those who had accused Brett Kavanaugh. Once it was established that Khashoggi had been killed inside a Saudi consulate, Trump started talking about how we couldn't afford to rattle the Saudis, citing his $110 billion arms deal with them.

He had previously announced the deal would create 40,000 U.S. jobs, but once he started offering cover for Saudi Prince Mohammad bin Salman, that total jumped to 450,000 jobs, then 500,000, then 600,000 and finally "over a million."

Remember the old joke about a guy asking a woman in a bar if she'd sleep with him for $10 million? She says yes, and he asks if she'd sleep with him for $10. When she's offended, he says, "We've established what you are; now we're only haggling over the price."

In Trump's book, the United States is just a whore he's rouged up, ready to lay back and overlook a despotic regime's murders, torturing and beheadings if the price is right. (And let's not forget the scores of nameless civilians in school buses and vegetable markets in Yemen recently killed by Saudis with U.S. arms.)

Even if you're the cold-hearted sort who only cares about money, you have to worry about a CEO whose figures fluctuate by a factor of 25 and whose $110 billion "deal" is actually a mashup of sales negotiated by the previous administration and a wish list of things the Saudis haven't entirely committed to.

Meanwhile, before Khashoggi's dismembered body was even cold, Trump was at a rally, praising a Republican colleague for roughing up a journalist, calling him "my kind of guy." And a week doesn't go by without Trump calling the press "the enemy of the people" and singling out reporters for abuse at his rallies.

Then, when explosive devices started arriving at CNN and the addresses of Democratic rivals Trump had targeted, he blamed the "hateful" mainstream media for creating a climate of division in our country.

We could all learn something from the hard work Trump is doing to unify the nation. Consider what he's said in the last couple of weeks about his fellow Americans:

Democrats, he said, "have become totally consumed by their chilling lust for power … too extreme and too dangerous to govern. … They will replace freedom with socialism, we'll be another Venezuela. … Their radical policies are a danger to your family and to your country. The Democrats truly have turned into an angry mob, bent on destroying anything or anyone in their path. … Just imagine the devastation they would cause if they ever obtained the power they so desperately want and crave. … They want to delay, demolish, they want to destroy. They want to unleash violent predators and ruthless killers, and you know it!"

Wow, who knew that we Democrats are Marvel super-villains? We're capable of anything. Just hours before the arrest of the man suspected of sending explosive devices to Trump's enemies, a Trump tweet bolstered the right-wing whisper campaign that the parcels were a hoax created by liberals to suppress the Republican election turnout.

Credit the FBI and other authorities with the quick capture of registered-Republican, Trump-rally-attending bomb suspect Cesar Sayoc, who drove a van with windows covered by photos of Trump, as well as images of persons Trump had verbally attacked, overlaid with riflescope

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patterns. So also credit Trump's FBI Director Christopher Wray with keeping a straight face while saying it was "too early" to speculate about Sayoc's motive.

Within hours of the arrest, Trump was again attacking the media, as incapable of shame, remorse or learning a goddamn thing as he's ever been.

I haven't left a hell of a lot of room for my voting guide, but, here, step into the booth with me, will you? Close the curtain. Gee, your hair smells terrific. What—the ballot? Okay.

Here's the easy part: All the names adjacent to the word *Republican*? Screw 'em. Sorry to the few earnest people among them, but your party is killing our republic. (I'm voting Steve Poizner for Insurance Commissioner, though. He's good and has evidently bolted the party, listing himself as "no preference.") Remember, even pre-Trump Republicans got thousands of Americans killed in a needless, immoral war, then followed that by driving our economy into a ditch. Had they an ounce of shame, they would have slunk back into their caves for a generation, until they realized those ancient paintings in there are about people helping one another. But instead, they hung around to complain about the black man not cleaning up the mess they'd made fast enough. And in California, they're nitpicking the progress the state has made since a Democrat supermajority ended their obstruction. If they're acquiescent in the evil Trump is spreading through the pores of their Grand Old Party, screw 'em. It's like this: Even if you're one of Charles Manson's mellower girls, you're still a Manson girl.

In some of our races, it's Democrat vs. Democrat. For U.S. senator, I'm going with Feinstein because her seniority gives her power and Republicans speak her name as if she were Keyser Söze. I won't mind when she's replaced with someone better, but Kevin De Leon isn't that someone.

I'm voting "yes" on all the judges, trusting the *L.A. Times*' judgment on that.

For district attorney, we're stuck with voting for Todd Spitzer. He strikes me as being the OC version of Paul Ryan, but Tony Rackauckas strikes me as the OC version of Voldemort.

On the propositions, "Yes" on everything but props 3, 5, 6 and 8—just because. I've been hoping all my life for permanent daylight saving time. Next up, flying cars!

You're on your own for everything else. But if you live in Laguna, may I recommend you write in Jorg Dubin for City Council? He's a fine artist and a thoughtful man, plus I like his campaign slogan. "Out with the old, in with the less old."

Best of luck in the booth, and I hope the outcome offers some relief from the two-year stomach punch we've just endured.

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